

Remarks

The Office Action dated September 16, 2009, has been carefully considered. Applicants have previously submitted a response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2009.

Applicants now submit this response to supplement the prior response as discussed in the Examiner Interview of December 16, 2009. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled. Claim 20 has been amended. New claims 25-35 have been added. Reconsideration of the current claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 112

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled thereby mooting this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qin et al. (US Pat. No. 5,985,434). Claims 1-19 have been cancelled thereby mooting this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 9, 10, 12-14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qin et al. (US Pat. No. 5,985,434) in view of Hähnle et al. (Intl. Pub. No. WO 00/52087, English language equivalent US Pat. No. 6,750,262 used for citation purposes). Claims 1-19 have been cancelled thereby mooting this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In the Office Action, claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qin et al. (US Pat. No. 5,985,434) in view of Chen et al. (US Pub. No. 2001/0024716). Claims 1-19 have been cancelled thereby mooting this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Examiner Interview

Mr. McCann and Ms. Cottrell, counsel for Applicants, attended an Examiner Interview with Examiner Godenschwager on December 16, 2009, via teleconference. The attendees discussed the new and amended claims in light of the Qin et al. reference. The Applicants have agreed to submit a Supplemental Response which is found herein.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is submitted that the application is in a scope and form for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' counsel at the indicated number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Philip P. McCann/

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